

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-2, 5 and 7-12 will be pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 3 and 4, respectively. Claims 3, 4 and 6 are now canceled.

Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested along with reconsideration and review of the claims on the merits.

***Formal Matters***

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of certified copies of the priority documents. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed January 5, 2004, and April 16, 2004.

***Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

A. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over EP 1213331, for the reasons given in the Office Action.

B. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over EP 1375608 in view of EP 1213331, for the reasons given in the Office Action.

Applicants respond as follows.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/750,863

Atty. Docket No.: Q79274

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 3, 4 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 3 and 4 into Claims 1 and 2, respectively.

Neither EP '331 alone nor EP '331 combined with EP '608 render obvious the present invention regarding, for example, the allowable subject matter from original Claims 3 and 4.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejections and allowance of Claims 1-2, 5 and 7-12.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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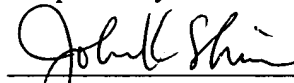
WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

  
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